

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 031726 TOSEC 030051

60

ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

66011

DRAFTED BY: S/S:FVORTIZ:GK

APPROVED BY: S/S:ORTIZ

----- 126652

P 092304Z FEB 76 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 031726 TOSEC 030051

NODIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT CAIRO 1714 ACTION SECSTAE 09 FEB

QUOTE

S E C R E T CAIRO 1714

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SY, JO, PAL

SUBJECT: FAHMY ON SYRIA-JORDAN-PALESTINIANS

1. IN A LENGTHY TALK WITH FAHMY TODAY, I REFERRED TO KING HUSSEIN'S ANNOUNCEMENT ON RECONVENING THE JORDANIAN PARLIAMENT AND THE PLO REACTION THERETO. IN FAHMY'S VIEW, THIS ACTION ON THE PART OF HUSSEIN REPRESENTS THE FIRST STEP IN A GOJ EFFORT TO GET BACK INTO THE ME PEACE PROCESS AS AN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT. NOTING TOTAL SYRIAN SILENCE ON HSSSEIN'S ACTION, FAHMY SPECULATED THE JORDANIAN DECISION COULD ONLY HAVE BEEN REACHED WITH ASAD'S APPROVAL.

2. IN THIS CONNECTION, FAHMY ALSO ALLUDED TO

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 031726 TOSEC 030051

ZUHAYR MUHSIN'S STATEMENT INDICATING THAT THE

JORDANIAN ACTION WAS KNOWN TO PLO IN ADVANCE AND DOES NOT RUN COUNTER TO PALESTINIAN INTERESTS. SINCE ZUHAYR MUHSIN IS TOTALLY UNDER THE SYRIAN THUMB, FAHMY VIEWED THE SA'IQA LEADER'S STATEMENT AS FURTHER INDICATION OF PRIOR SYRIAN ENDORSEMENT. ZUHAYR MUHSIN, FAHMY CHARGED, IS MORE A SYRIAN THAN HE IS A PALESTINIAN.

3. FAHMY STATED GOE STRATEGY AT THE MOMENT IS TO USE THE QUOTE SYRIAN GAMBIT WITH THE PALESTINIANS UNQUOTE IN ORDER TO DIVIDE THE PALESTINIANS. ARAFAT AND FATAH ARE CURRENTLY DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT GROWING STRENGTH OF THE SYRIAN ORIENTED SA'IQA AND VIEW ASAD'S OBJECTIVE AS SUPPLANTING ARAFAT WITH ZUHAYR MUHSIN AS LEADER OF THE PLO. THUS, GOE HAS BEEN DOING WHAT IT CAN TO ASSIST ARAFAT AND FATAH, INCLUDING THE RECENT DEPLOYMENT OF A BATTALION OF THE AIN JALLUT BRIGADE TO LEBANON AT ARAFAT'S SPECIFIC REQUEST. FAHMY ARGUED, AS HE HAS MANY TIMES BEFORE, THAT ONLY BY STRENGTHENING ARAFAT AND FATAH IS THERE ANY HOPE OF KEEPING THE PLO UNDER QUOTE MODERATE UNQUOTE LEADERSHIP.

4. FAHMY RECALLED THAT, WHEN ASKED TO COMMENT ON THE PLO'S SHARPLY NEGATIVE REACTION TO HUSSEIN'S MOVEMENT, HE HAD TOLD PRESS THAT GOE DISAPPROVES OF ANY MEASURE WHICH COULD HAVE AN ADVERSE EFFECT ON THE PALESTINIAN CAUSE OR THE FUTURE OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE (CAIRO 1684). HIS STATEMENT, HE EXPLAINED, WAS MADE AS PART OF GOE EFFORT TO DIVIDE THE PALESTINIANS. WHILE NOT A DIRECT SLAP AT HUSSEIN, IT WOULD BE READ IN OVERALL ARAB CONTEXT AS A SLAP AT THE SYRIANS AND SUPPORT FOR ARAFAT.

5. THIS PROMPTED FAHMY TO COMMENT ON PRESS REPORTS OUT OF ISRAEL AND THE US AFTER RABIN'S VISIT THAT HUSSEIN WILL BE INVITED TO NEGOTIATE FOR THE PALESTINIANS. FAHMY STRESSED THAT NO ONE SHOULD BELIEVE HUSSEIN CAN DO SO AT THE PRESENT TIME. SADAT HAD ATTEMPTED SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT AT

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 031726 TOSEC 030051

ALEXANDRIA IN 1974, BUT IT FAILED. HUSSEIN MIGHT HAVE A ROLE, BUT ONLY AFTER ANOTHER ARAB SUMMIT ALTERS THE RABAT DECISION AND AUTHORIZES HIM TO DO SO. TO ATTEMPT TO BRING HUSSEIN IN AS A NEGOTIATOR FOR THE PALESTINIANS BEFORE THE RABAT DECISION IS AMENDED WILL, IN FAHMY'S VIEW, DEFEAT THE EFFORT BEFORE IT EVER GETS UNDERWAY. NEITHER HUSSEIN, NOR THE ISRAELIS NOR WE SHOULD BE UNDER ANY MIS-

IMPRESSION ON THIS SCORE.

7. DEPT MAY WISH REPEAT THIS MESSAGE TO DAMASCUS AND
AMMAN.

EILTS UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, CAT-C, PEACE TALKS, NEGOTIATIONS, PLANNING MEETINGS, LIBERATION FRONTS, POLITICAL LEADERS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE031726
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: S/S:FVORTIZ:GK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: N760001-0790
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 2
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760266/aaaacgmc.tel
Line Count: 120
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <05 OCT 2004 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: LOCK1
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FAHMY ON SYRIA-JORDAN-PALESTINIANS
TAGS: PFOR, SY, JO, PLO, (FAHMY, ISMAIL), (MUHSIN, ZUHAYR)
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006